

Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) Teacher Education Scholarship Winners 2018-2019

Region 1: Courtney Vander Galien | [Randolph High School](#)



My name is Courtney Vander Galien and I am a senior at Randolph High School. I plan on furthering my education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, this fall. I will be majoring in Elementary/ Early Childhood Education and minoring in Special Education. During high school, I had the ability to help in a middle school classroom, where I secured my love for teaching. In the past four summers, I was a lifeguard where I was able to teach swimming lessons. I participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball while being a class officer all four years. Growing up in a small town was truly a blessing in my eyes. I may not have realized it while I was growing up but living in a small community truly made me a better person. I had an entire town who watched me become the woman I am today, and I would not have traded it for the world.

Region 2: Isabelle Sander | [Cuba City High School](#)



My name is Isabelle Sander and I am a senior at Cuba City High School. I carried a 3.99 GPA and am a State decorated musician, Class President, Leo Club President, FCCLA President, 4-year state qualifier for solo acting (forensics) and Poms Dance Captain. Future plans include attending the University of Wisconsin Platteville to double major in history education and musical theater.

Region 3: Alyssa Underwood | [Colby High School](#)



My name is Alyssa Underwood and I attended Colby High School. The rural area of Colby has laid the foundation for my self-esteem and team building skills that I can take with me in my personal and future professional life. During my four years at CHS, I was involved in multiple clubs including NHS, SADD, FBLA and Student Council. I also was a varsity athlete in three sports, volleyball, basketball, and softball. I will be attending UW La Crosse in the fall in hopes to become a speech pathologist and be able to work in a school setting. I first became interested in education by being a teacher assistant in a first-grade classroom for two years. After job shadowing the elementary speech pathologist, I found a field I was very interested in. I really want to improve the life of others by helping them strengthen their language, articulation, and communication skills, particularly children who are behind in their language development or speech.

Region 4: Celeste Teichmiller | [Lakeland Union High School](#)



Celeste Teichmiller grew up in Minocqua, Wisconsin and attended Lakeland Union High School where she participated in many activities. She was the captain on the Girls Swim team and Nordic Ski team, President of National Honor Society, Student School Board Representative for Student Council as well as a leader in other clubs such as Ignition, Model United Nationals and Visual Arts Classic. Growing up in a rural community brings many opportunities to experience and explore the outdoors. Celeste enjoys biking, paddle boarding, kayaking and hiking in her free time. Celeste is also a volunteer at the Lakeland Star School/Academy where she works with students that have special needs. In the fall of 2019, Celeste will be attending the University of Wisconsin La Crosse to earn a degree in Special Education.

At Large Region 2: Michaela Acherman | [Mineral Point High School](#)



My name is Michaela Acherman, and I am from Mineral Point, Wisconsin. I hope to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the year 2023 with a degree in elementary education. During my high school years, I was a member of National Honor Society, FBLA, Key Club, Forensics, Band, Choir, Musical Theatre, and Book Club. I was also a football cheerleader. My favorite activities are spending time with my family and singing. My parents were my most significant influence in pursuing a degree in elementary education. My parents are the kindest, most patient people I have ever met. Their students love them and admire them greatly. I would love it if someday I could be just as incredible teachers as they are. Also, my former teachers inspired me to become a teacher. There were times when school wasn't the easiest for me, and it was the teachers that helped me and made every day brighter. I have always loved children and hope to be a positive influence on them. As a teacher, I will strive to help my students to reach their highest potential. It is also my goal to use my own life experiences to be a better teacher. To me, teaching is the most fulfilling job I could have.